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PubMed Help Sheet

for Command Language Searchers



ELHILL Technique	PubMed Technique	PubMed Comments
(tw) holistic	holistic [tw]	Use square brackets to qualify. Do not pre-qualify.
all work:	work*	The only truncation symbol is the asterisk. No need to use "all" to avoid multi-meaning messages.
liver or bladder	liver [mh] OR bladder [mh]	Enter Boolean operators in UPPERCASE. There is no default to MeSH search.
cats and not dogs	cats NOT dogs	Represent the "and not" operator with NOT.
wit a#d humor	wit and humor [mh]	MeSH headings which include "and" do not require use of # to avoid confusion with the Boolean AND.
exp heart	heart [mh]	MeSH terms are automatically exploded in PubMed.unless you qualify with [mh:noexp].
hypertension	hypertension [mh:noexp]	To turn off automatic exploding of MeSH headings, post-qualify with [mh:noexp].
*smoking	smoking [majr]	Post-qualify with [majr] to limit a MeSH search to major focus.
neoplasms/dt	neoplasms/dt	Subheadings can be spelled out or the two-letter abbreviation may be used.
hypertension and to (sh)	hypertension [mh] AND toxicity [sh]	Subheadings may be searched as floating subheadings. Pre-exploded subheadings will be automatically exploded.
heart diseases and th (sh)	heart diseases [mh] AND therapy [sh:noexp]	Post-qualify with [sh:noexp] to turn off automatic explode feature when floating subheadings..
all applegate ra: (au)	applegate ra [au]	The format for author searching remains the same, but truncation is automatic.
shields † (au)	"shields †" [au]	Use quotes to turn off automatic truncation when searching authors.
*eye and not for (la)	eye [majr] AND english [la]	Go ahead and work with the larger portion of the database, the English language portion. Spell out language values.
exp *eye contains human	eye [majr] AND human [mh]	No need to STRINGSEARCH or use the CONTAINS operator.
*g suits and 98 (yr)	g suits [majr] AND 1998 [dp]	Enter 4 digits followed by the [dp] tag to search the Date of Publication field.
*psychotherapy and 97 (yr) or *psychotherapy and 98 (yr)	psychotherapy [majr] AND 1997:1998 [dp]	Ranging operations may be performed on the Date of Publication field using the colon. (You can also range using year and date or complete Date of Publication values.)
Jama (ta) and 1998 jan 12 (dp)	Jama [ta] AND 1998/01/12 [dp]	Format for the Date of Publication field is YYYY/MM/DD [dp].
Diazepam and 9ja (jc)	Diazepam [mh] AND jama [ta]	The 3-character journal code is not available. Search the Title Abbreviation instead.
(cats or dogs) and rabies ----- cats and rabies or dogs and rabies	cats [mh] OR dogs [mh] AND rabies [mh]	ELHILL and other search systems require searchers to consider the processing order of operations within search statements. Nesting or separate search statements were used. PubMed processes statements left to right.